(b) to (d) So far the Delimitation Commission has completed its exercise in respect of 25 States. These Orders have, however, not been given effect to, pending issue of Final Orders in respect of all the States/Union Territories. The new delimitation will take effect from the date to be specified by the President of India under the second proviso to article 82 and second proviso of clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution.

Registration of marriages

1379. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court set a fresh three-month deadline in October, 2007, for the States and Union Territories, to frame necessary rules to make registration of marriages compulsory, irrespective of religion, and took exception to some States making registration of marriages compulsory only for Hindus;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court;

(c) how many States have introduced the legislation so far; and

(d) whether, in view of the Supreme Court's judgment, Government is considering to have a Central Law for compulsory registration of marriages?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 25th October, 2007 has directed that the States and Union Territories who have not acted in line with the directions given on 14.02.2006 in the case of Smt. Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar AIR 2006 S.C. 1158 shall forthwith do it and in no case later than three months from 25.10.2007.

(b) The Government has sought the comments of the State Governments/Union Territories on the compliance of directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid case.

(c) The information is being collected from all States/Union Territories.

(d) The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the Judgment in the said case. No decision has been taken so far to enact a Central Law in this behalf.

Registration of marriages in rural areas

1380. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apex court has made it mandatory to register the marriages;

(b) if so, whether any mechanism is available in the country for registration of marriages solemnized in the rural areas;

(c) if not, whether it would be proper accord powers to postmasters who subsequently would forward the data to district courts for collecting and distributing registration certificates within a time bound period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?